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This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION under 37 CFR 1.53 (c).

	Docket Number	1090-75	Type a plus sign (+) inside this box→	+

INVENTOR(S)/APPLICANT(S)

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TITLE OF THE INVENTION (280 characters)

NEW COMPOUNDS

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ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS *(check all that apply)*

☒	Specification	Number of Pages	73	☐	Applicant claims "small entity" status. ☐ "Small entity" statement attached.
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The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contact with an agency of the United States Government.

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☐ Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are:

Respectfully submitted,
SIGNATURE Mcarey J. Wilson (for) Reg No 32955 DATE March 3, 2004

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REGISTRATION NO. *(if appropriate)* 29,009

☐ Additional inventors are being named on separately numbered sheets attached hereto.

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NEW COMPOUNDS

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a novel use of certain compounds, some of which compounds are themselves novel and some of which are known. In particular, the invention relates to the use of such compounds in the inhibition of the activity of lipoxygenases, such as 15-lipoxygenase, and thus in the treatment of inflammatory diseases and of inflammation generally. The invention also relates to new compounds that are useful in that inhibition, to the use of such compounds as medicaments, to pharmaceutical compositions containing them, and to synthetic routes for their production.

Background

There are many diseases/disorders that are inflammatory in their nature. One of the major problems associated with existing treatments of inflammatory conditions is a lack of efficacy and/or the prevalence of side effects (real or perceived).

Asthma is a chronic inflammatory disease affecting of 6% to 8% of the adult population of the industrialized world. In children, the incidence is even higher, being close to 10% in most countries. Asthma is the most common cause of hospitalization for children under the age of fifteen.

Treatment regimens for asthma are based on the severity of the condition. Mild cases are either untreated or are only treated with inhaled β-agonists. Patients with more severe asthma are typically treated with anti-inflammatory compounds on a regular basis.

There is a considerable under-treatment of asthma, which is due at least in part to perceived risks with existing maintenance therapy (mainly inhaled corticosteroids). These include risks of growth retardation in children and loss of bone mineral density, resulting in unnecessary morbidity and mortality. As an alternative to steroids, leukotriene receptor antagonists (LTRas) have been developed. These drugs may be given orally, but are considerably less efficacious than inhaled steroids and usually do not control airway inflammation satisfactorily.

This combination of factors has led to at least 50% of all asthma patients being inadequately treated.

A similar pattern of under-treatment exists in relation to allergic disorders, where drugs are available to treat a number of common conditions but are underused in view of apparent side effects. Rhinitis, conjunctivitis and dermatitis may have an allergic component, but may also arise in the absence of underlying allergy. Indeed, non-allergic conditions of this class are in many cases more difficult to treat.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a common disease affecting 6% to 8% of the world population. The disease is potentially lethal, and the morbidity and mortality from the condition is considerable. At present, there is no known pharmacological treatment capable of changing the course of COPD.

Other inflammatory disorders which may be mentioned include:

(a) pulmonary fibrosis (this is less common than COPD, but is a serious disorder with a very bad prognosis. No curative treatment exists);

(b) inflammatory bowel disease (a group of disorders with a high morbidity rate. Today only symptomatic treatment of such disorders is available); and

(c) rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis (common disabling inflammatory disorders of the joints. There are currently no curative, and only moderately effective symptomatic, treatments available for the management of such conditions).

Inflammation is also a common cause of pain. Inflammatory pain may arise for numerous reasons, such as infection, surgery or other trauma. Moreover, several malignancies are known to have inflammatory components adding to the symptomatology of the patients.

Thus, a new and/or alternative anti-inflammatory treatment would be of benefit to all of the above-mentioned patient groups. In particular, there is a real and substantial unmet clinical need for an effective anti-inflammatory drug capable of treating inflammatory disorders, such as asthma, with no real or perceived side effects.

The mammalian lipoxygenases are a family of structurally-related enzymes, which catalyze the oxygenation of arachidonic acid. Three types of human lipoxygenases are known, which catalyze the insertion of molecular oxygen into arachidonic acid at carbon positions 5, 12 and 15. The enzymes are thus named 5-, 12- and 15-lipoxygenase, respectively.

Arachidonic acid metabolites that are formed following the action of lipoxygenases are known to have pronounced pathophysiological activity including pro-inflammatory effects.

For example, the primary product of the action of 5-lipoxygenase on arachidonic acid is further converted by a number of enzymes to a variety of physiologically and pathophysiologically important metabolites. The most important of these, the leukotrienes, are strong bronchoconstrictors. Huge efforts have been devoted towards the development of drugs that inhibit the action of these metabolites as well as the biological processes that form them. Drugs that have been developed to this end include 5-lipoxygenase inhibitors, inhibitors of FLAP (Five Lipoxygenase Activating Protein) and, as mentioned previously, leukotriene receptor antagonists (LTRas).

Another class of enzymes that metabolize arachidonic acid are the cyclooxygenases. Arachidonic acid metabolites that are produced by this process include prostaglandins, thromboxanes and prostacyclin, all of which possess physiological or pathophysiological activity. In particular, the prostaglandin PGE_2 is a strong pro-inflammatory mediator, which also induces fever and pain. Consequently, a number of drugs have been developed to inhibit the formation of PGE_2, including "NSAIDs" (non-steroidal antiinflammatory drugs) and "coxibs" (selective cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitors). These classes of compounds act predominantly by way of inhibition of one or several cyclooxygenases.

Thus, in general, agents that are capable of blocking the formation of arachidonic acid metabolites are likely to be of benefit in the treatment of inflammation.

Prior Art

Certain 1-aryl-2-(hydroxyimino)ethylidene arylhydrazides have been disclosed as being of potential use as antimicrobial and/or antibacterial agents in various prior art documents, including: Agarwal *et al*, *Asian*

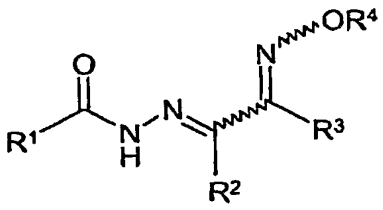
Journal of Chemistry., **2002** *14*, 489-492 and *Ultra Scientist of Physical Sciences*, **2001**, *13*, 267-270, Bahadur *et al*, *Journal of the Indian Chemical Society*, **1975**, *52*, 843-846, Misra *et al*, *Indian Journal of Applied Chemistry*, **1969**, *32*, 373-376, Varma *et al*, *Indian Journal of Microbiology*, **1964**, *4*, 63-66, Misra *et al*, *Journal of the Indian Chemical Society*, **1962**, *39*, 763-764, and Giammanco *et al*, *Annali di Chimica*, **1961**, *51*, 777-784 and *ibid.* **1961**, *51*, 175-179.

Other such compounds are disclosed in Agarwal *et al*, *Asian Journal of Chemistry*, **2000**, *12*, 843-846 and Atkinson *et al*, *Journal of the Chemical Society, Abstracts*, **1962**, 1805-1811 and as chemical curiosities and/or process intermediates.

The use of the compounds disclosed in the above-mentioned documents in the treatment of disorders in which inhibition of the activity of lipoxygenases is required, and/or the treatment of inflammation generally, is neither mentioned nor suggested therein.

Disclosure of the Invention

According to the invention there is provided a use of a compound of formula I,



wherein

the squiggly bonds represent optional *E* or *Z* geometry;

R^1 and R^2 independently represent an aryl group or a heteroaryl group, both of which groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from:

X^1, C_{1-8} alkyl, an aryl group and a heterocylic group:-

(A) which C_{1-8} alkyl group is itself optionally substituted by one or more Z substituents; and

(B) which C_{1-8} alkyl, aryl and heterocylic groups may themselves be substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^1, C_{1-8}-alkyl (which latter group may be further substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^1, C_{1-8}-alkyl, an aryl group, a heterocylic group and Z), an aryl group and a heterocylic group (and which latter two groups may be further substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^1, C_{1-8}-alkyl, an aryl group and a heterocylic group), in which:-

X^1 represents, on each occasion when used above, halo, cyano, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$ or $-A^1-R^5$, wherein:

A^1 represents a spacer group selected from $-C(Z)A^2-$, $-N(R^6)A^3-$, $-OA^4-$, -S- or $-S(O)_nA^5-$, in which:

A^2 represents a single bond, -O-, -S- or $-N(R^6)A^6-$,

A^3 represents A^6, $-C(Z)N(R^6)C(Z)N(R^6)-$, $-C(Z)N(R^6)C(Z)O-$, $-C(Z)N(R^6)S(O)_nN(R^6)-$, $-C(Z)S-$, $-S(O)_n-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^6)C(Z)N(R^6)-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^6)C(Z)O-$ or $-S(O)_nN(R^6)S(O)_nN(R^6)-$;

A^4 represents A^6 or $-S(O)_n-$;

A^5 represents a single bond, $-N(R^6)-$ or $-O-$;

A^6 represents a single bond, $-C(Z)-$, $-C(Z)O-$, $-C(Z)N(R^6)-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^6)-$ or $-S(O)_nO-$; and

Z represents, on each occasion when used above, a substituent connected by a double bond, which is selected from =O, =S, $=NR^5$, $=NN(R^5)(R^6)$, $=NOR^5$, $=NS(O)_2N(R^5)(R^6)$, =NCN, $=CHNO_2$ and $=C(R^5)(R^6)$;

R^5 and R^6 independently represent, on each occasion when used above,

(a) hydrogen;

(b) C_{1-8}-alkyl, optionally substituted by one or more substituent selected from X^2, Q, C_{1-8}-alkyl (optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^2, C_{1-8}-alkyl, an aryl group, a heterocylic group and Q), an aryl group and a heterocylic group (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^2, C_{1-8}-alkyl, an aryl group and a heterocylic group); or

(c) an aryl group or a heterocylic group, both of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^2, C_{1-8}-alkyl (optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^2, C_{1-8}-alkyl, an aryl group, a heterocylic group and Q), an aryl group and a heterocylic group (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^2, C_{1-8}-alkyl, an aryl group and a heterocylic group); or

R^5 and R^6 may, when present on the same atom or on adjacent atoms, taken together with those atoms form a 5- to 8-membered ring optionally containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 double bonds, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^2, C_{1-8}-alkyl, an aryl group, a heterocylic group (which latter three groups are optionally substituted as described in (b) and (c) above respectively) and, provided that the ring that R^5 and R^6 may together be part of is not aromatic in character, Q;

X^2 represents, on each occasion when used above, halo, cyano, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$ or $-A^7-R^7$, wherein:

A^7 represents a spacer group selected from $-C(Q)A^8-$, $-N(R^8)A^9-$, $-OA^{10}-$, -S- or $-S(O)_nA^{11}-$, in which:

A^8 represents a single bond, -O-, -S- or $-N(R^8)-$;

A^9 represents A^{12}, $-C(Q)N(R^8)C(Q)N(R^8)-$, $-C(Q)N(R^8)C(Q)O-$, $-C(Q)N(R^8)S(O)_nN(R^8)-$, $-C(Q)S-$, $-S(O)_n-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^8)C(Q)N(R^8)-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^8)C(Q)O-$ or $-S(O)_nN(R^8)S(O)_nN(R^8)-$;

A^{10} represents A^{12} or $-S(O)_n-$;

A^{11} represents a single bond, $-N(R^8)-$ or –O-;

A^{12} represents a single bond, –C(Q)-, -C(Q)O-, $-C(Q)N(R^8)-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^8)-$ or $-S(O)_nO-$;

Q represents, on each occasion when used above, a substituent connected by a double bond, which is selected from =O, =S, $=NR^7$, $=NN(R^7)(R^8)$, $=NOR^7$, $=NS(O)_2N(R^7)(R^8)$, =NCN, $=CHNO_2$ and $=C(R^7)(R^8)$;

R^7 and R^8 independently represent, on each occasion when used herein,

(i) hydrogen;

(ii) an aryl group or a heterocylic group, both of which may be substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^3, C_{1-8} alkyl, an aryl group and a heterocylic group (and which latter three groups are themselves optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, hydroxy, $-R^9$, $-OR^9$ and =O); or

(iii) C_{1-8}-alkyl, optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^3 and W; or

R^7 and R^8 may, when present on the same atom or on adjacent atoms, taken together with those atoms form a 5- to 8-membered ring optionally containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 double bonds, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^3,

C_{1-8} alkyl, an aryl group, a heterocylic group and, provided that the ring that R^7 and R^8 may together be part of is not aromatic in character, W;

X^3 represents, on each occasion when used above, halo, cyano, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$ or $-A^{13}-R^{10}$, wherein:

A^{13} represents a spacer group selected from $-C(W)A^{14}-$, $-N(R^{11})A^{15}-$, $-OA^{16}-$, -S- or $-S(O)_nA^{17}-$, in which:

A^{14} represents a single bond, -O-, -S- or $-N(R^{11})-$;

A^{15} represents A^{18}, $-C(W)N(R^{11})C(W)N(R^{11})-$, $-C(W)N(R^{11})C(W)O-$, $-C(W)N(R^{11})S(O)_nN(R^{11})-$, -C(W)S-, $-S(O)_n-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})C(W)N(R^{11})-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})C(W)O-$ or $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})S(O)_nN(R^{11})-$;

A^{16} represents A^{18} or $-S(O)_n-$;

A^{17} represents a single bond, $-N(R^{11})-$ or –O-;

A^{18} represents a single bond, –C(W)-, -C(W)O-, $-C(W)N(R^{11})-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})-$ or $-S(O)_nO-$;

R^9 represents, on each occasion when used above, C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted by one or more fluoro atoms;

W represents, on each occasion when used above, a substituent connected by a double bond, which is selected from =O, =S, $=NR^{10}$, $=NN(R^{10})(R^{11})$, $=NOR^{10}$, $=NS(O)_2N(R^{10})(R^{11})$, =NCN, $=CHNO_2$ and $=C(R^{10})(R^{11})$;

R^{10} and R^{11} independently represent, on each occasion when used above:

(1) hydrogen;

(2) an aryl group or a heterocylic group, both of which may be substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^4, C_{1-8} alkyl, methylenedioxy, difluoromethylenedioxy and dimethylmethylenedioxy; or

(3) C_{1-8}-alkyl, optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^4, =O, =S, $=NR^{12}$, $=NN(R^{12})(R^{13})$, $=NOR^{12}$, $=NS(O)_2N(R^{12})(R^{13})$, =NCN, $=CHNO_2$ and $=C(R^{12})(R^{13})$; or

R^{10} and R^{11} may, when present on the same atom or on adjacent atoms, taken together with those atoms form a 5- to 8-membered ring optionally containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 double bonds, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^4 and, provided that the ring that R^{10} and R^{11} may together be part of is not aromatic in character, =O, =S, $=NR^{12}$, $=NN(R^{12})(R^{13})$, $=NOR^{12}$, $=NS(O)_2N(R^{12})(R^{13})$, =NCN, $=CHNO_2$ and $=C(R^{12})(R^{13})$;

X^4 represents, on each occasion when used above, halo, cyano, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$ or $-A^{19}-R^{12}$, wherein:

A^{19} represents a spacer group selected from $-C(O)A^{20}-$, $-N(R^{13})A^{21}-$, $-OA^{22}-$, -S- or $-S(O)_nA^{23}-$, in which:

A^{20} represents a single bond, -O-, -S- or $-N(R^{13})-$;

A^{21} represents A^{24}, $-C(O)N(R^{13})C(O)N(R^{13})-$, $-C(O)N(R^{13})C(O)O-$, $-C(O)N(R^{13})S(O)_nN(R^{13})-$, -C(O)S-, $-S(O)_n-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{13})C(O)N(R^{13})-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{13})C(O)O-$ or $-S(O)_nN(R^{13})S(O)_nN(R^{13})-$;

A^{22} represents A^{24} or $-S(O)_n-$;

A^{23} represents a single bond, $-N(R^{13})-$ or –O-;

A^{24} represents a single bond, –C(O)-, -C(O)O-, $-C(O)N(R^{13})-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{13})-$ or $-S(O)_nO-$;

R^{12} and R^{13} independently represent, on each occasion when used above:

(A) hydrogen; or

(B) C_{1-6}-alkyl, optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-N(R^{14})R^{15}$, $-OR^{15}$ and =O;

n represents, on each occasion when used above, 1 or 2;

R^3 and R^4 independently represent H or C_{1-6}-alkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, C_{1-6}-alkyl, cyano, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$, $-N(R^{14})R^{15}$, $-OR^{15}$ and =O; and

R^{14} and R^{15} independently represent, on each occasion when used above, H or C_{1-4} alkyl,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disease in which inhibition of the activity of a lipoxygenase, and particularly 15-lipoxygenase, is desired and/or required.

Pharmaceutically-acceptable salts include acid addition salts and base addition salts. Such salts may be formed by conventional means, for example by reaction of a free acid or a free base form of a compound of the invention with one or more equivalents of an appropriate acid or base, optionally in a solvent, or in a medium in which the salt is insoluble, followed by removal of said solvent, or said medium, using standard techniques (e.g. *in vacuo*, by freeze-drying or by filtration). Salts may also be prepared by exchanging a counter-ion of a compound of the invention in the form of a salt with another counter-ion, for example using a suitable ion exchange resin.

Compounds of formula I contain double bonds and may thus exist as *E* (*entgegen*) and *Z* (*zusammen*) geometric isomers about each individual double bond. All such isomers and mixtures thereof are included within the scope of the invention.

Compounds of formula I may also exhibit tautomerism. All tautomeric forms and mixtures thereof are included within the scope of the invention.

Compounds of formula I may also contain one or more asymmetric carbon atoms and may therefore exhibit optical and/or diastercoisomerism. Diastereoisomers may be separated using conventional techniques, e.g. chromatography or fractional crystallisation. The various stereoisomers may be isolated by separation of a racemic or other mixture of the compounds using conventional, e.g. fractional crystallisation or HPLC, techniques. Alternatively the desired optical isomers may be made by reaction of the appropriate optically active starting materials under conditions which will not cause racemisation or epimerisation, or by derivatisation, for example with a homochiral acid followed by separation of the diastereomeric derivatives by conventional means (e.g. HPLC, chromatography over silica). All stereoisomers and mixtures thereof are included within the scope of the invention.

Unless otherwise specified, C_{1-q} alkyl groups (where q is the upper limit of the range) defined herein may be straight-chain or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. a minimum of two or three, as appropriate) of carbon atoms, be branched-chain, and/or cyclic (so forming a C_{3-q}-cycloalkyl group). Further, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. a minimum of four) of carbon atoms, such groups may also be part cyclic/acyclic. Such alkyl groups may also be saturated or, when there is a sufficient number (i.e. a minimum of two) of carbon atoms, be unsaturated (forming, for example, a C_{2-q} alkenyl or a C_{2-q} alkynyl group).

The term "halo", when used herein, includes fluoro, chloro, bromo and iodo.

For the avoidance of doubt, in cases in which the identity of two or more substituents in a compound of formula I may be the same, the actual identities of the respective substituents are not in any way interdependent. For example, in the situation in which R^1 and R^2 are both aryl groups substituted by one or more C_{1-8} alkyl groups, the alkyl groups in question may be the same or different. Similarly, when groups are substituted by more than one substituent as defined herein, the identities of those individual substituents are not to be regarded as being interdependent. For example, when R^1 and/or R^2 represents e.g. an aryl group substituted by X^1 in addition to, for example, a C_{1-8} alkyl group, which latter group is substituted by X^1, the identities of the two X^1 groups are not to be regarded as being interdependent.

Aryl groups that may be mentioned include C_{6-10} aryl groups. Such groups may be monocyclic or bicyclic and have between 6 and 10 ring carbon atoms, in which at least one ring is aromatic. C_{6-10} aryl groups include phenyl, naphthyl and the like, such as 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthyl, indanyl, and indenyl. The point of attachment of aryl groups may be *via* any atom of the ring system. Preferred aryl groups include phenyl groups.

Heterocylic groups that may be mentioned include those in which at least one (e.g. one to four) of the atoms in the ring system is other than carbon (i.e. a heteroatom, such as oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur and/or selenium), and in which the total number of atoms in the ring system is between three and twelve (e.g. five and ten). Heterocyclic groups may be fully saturated, wholly aromatic, partly aromatic and/or mono-, bi- or tricyclic in character, though, in the latter case, preferably at least one of the rings is aromatic. Heterocyclic groups that may be mentioned include acridinyl, aziridinyl, azetidinyl, benzimidazolyl, benzodioxanyl, benzodioxepanyl, benzodioxolyl (including 1,3-benzodioxolyl), benzofuranyl, benzofurazanyl,

benzothiazolyl (including 2,1,3-benzothiazolyl), benzoxadiazolyl (including 2,1,3-benzoxadiazolyl), benzoxazinyl (including 3,4-dihydro-2*H*-1,4-benzoxazinyl), benzoxazolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzomorpholinyl, benzoselenadiazolyl (including 2,1,3-benzoselenadiazolyl), benzothiophenyl, carbazolyl, chromanyl, cinnolinyl, dihydropyranyl, dihydropyridinyl, dioxolanyl (including 1,3-dioxolanyl), dioxanyl (including 1,3-dioxanyl and 1,4-dioxanyl), dithianyl (including 1,4-dithianyl), dithiolanyl (including 1,3-dithiolanyl), furanyl, hydantoinyl, imidazolidinyl, imidazolinyl, imidazolyl, imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridinyl, indazolyl, indolinyl, indolyl, isobenzofuranyl, isochromanyl, isoindolinyl, isoindolyl, isoquinolinyl, isothiaziolyl, isoxazolyl, maleimidolyl, morpholinyl, naphthyridinyl (including 1,5-naphthyridinyl and 1,8-naphthyridinyl), oxadiazolyl (including 1,2,3-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,4-oxadiazolyl and 1,3,4-oxadiazolyl), oxazolyl, oxetanyl, oxindolyl, oxiranyl, phenazinyl, phenothiazinyl, phthalazinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, pteridinyl, purinyl, pyranyl, pyrazinyl, pyrazolidinyl, pyrazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrrolidinonyl, pyrrolidinyl, pyrrolinyl, pyrrolyl, quinazolinyl, quinolinyl, quinolizinyl, quinoxalinyl, quinuclidinyl, 3-sulfolenyl, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, tetrahydropyridinyl, tetrahydroquinolinyl, tetrazolyl, thiadiazolyl (including 1,2,3-thiadiazolyl, 1,2,4-thiadiazolyl and 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl), thiazolyl, thietanyl, thiiranyl, thiolanyl, thiochromanyl, thiomorpholinyl, thiophenyl, triazolyl (including 1,2,3-triazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl and 1,3,4-triazolyl), trithianyl (including 1,3,5-trithianyl), tropanyl and the like.

Substituents on heterocyclic groups may, where appropriate, be located on any atom in the ring system including a heteroatom. The point of attachment of heterocyclic groups may be *via* any atom in the ring system including (where appropriate) a heteroatom, or an atom on any fused

carbocyclic ring that may be present as part of the ring system. Heterocyclic groups may also be in the *N*- or *S*-oxidised form.

Heteroaryl groups that R^1 and R^2 may represent include any of the ring systems mentioned above that are either wholly or partly aromatic in their character. This is provided that, in the latter case, the point of attachment of the heteroaryl group to the rest of the molecule is *via* an atom in the aromatic part of the ring system.

Preferred compounds of formula I include those in which:

when A^1 represents $-C(Z)A^2-$, A^2 represents a single bond, -O-, -S- or $-N(R^6)-$;

when A^1 represents $-N(R^6)A^3-$, A^3 represents A^6, $-C(Z)S-$ or $-S(O)_n-$;

when R^1 and/or R^2 are substituted by an alkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group, which latter three groups are substituted by one or more alkyl, aryl or heterocylic groups, and which latter three groups are themselves substituted by an alkyl group, then that alkyl group is not cyclic in character;

when A^7 represents $-N(R^8)A^9-$, A^9 represents A^{12}, $-C(Q)S-$ or $-S(O)_n-$;

when R^7 and/or R^8 represent an optionally substituted aryl group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, and the optional substituent is X^3, then X^3 represents halo, cyano or $-NO_2$;

when R^7 and/or R^8 represent a C_{1-8} alkyl group, then that group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-N(R^{16})R^{17}$, $-OR^{17}$ and =O, in which R^{16} and R^{17} independently represent H or C_{1-4} alkyl.

When R^7 and/or R^8 represent a C_{1-8} alkyl group, then that group is preferably optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from

halo, $-NH_2$, -N(H)Me, -N(H)Et, -N(H)*i*Pr, $-NMe_2$, -N(Me)Et, -N(Me)*i*Pr, $-NEt_2$, -OH, -OMe, -OEt, -O*i*Pr and =O.

Preferred alkyl groups that R^7 and R^8 may represent include C_{1-6} (such as C_{1-4}) alkyl.

More preferred compounds of formula I include those in which R^1 and/or R^2 represent an optionally substituted phenyl, naphthyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiophenyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyridinyl (e.g. pyridin-2-yl, pyridin-3-yl or pyridin-4-yl), indolyl, indolinyl, isoindolinyl, oxindolyl, quinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, quinolizinyl, benzofuranyl, isobenzofuranyl, chromanyl, benzothiophenyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, indazolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinazolinyl, quinoxalinyl, 1,3-benzodioxolyl and/or benzodioxanyl group.

Such groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from;

halo (e.g. fluoro, chloro or bromo);

$-NO_2$;

cyano;

C_{1-6} alkyl, which alkyl group may be linear or branched (e.g. C_{1-4} alkyl (including methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, *i*-propyl, *n*-butyl or *t*-butyl), *n*-pentyl, *i*-pentyl, *n*-hexyl or *i*-hexyl), cyclic (e.g. cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl), part-cyclic (e.g. cyclopropylmethyl), unsaturated (e.g. 1-propenyl, 2-propenyl, 1-butenyl, 2-butenyl, 3-butenyl, 1-pentenyl, 2-pentenyl, 4-pentenyl or 5-hexenyl) and/or optionally substituted with one or more halo (e.g. fluoro) group (e.g. fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl or trifluoromethyl);

phenyl;

a heterocyclic group selected from a pyrollidinyl (including 1-pyrrolidinyl, 2-pyrrolidinyl and 3-pyrrolidinyl), a piperidinyl (including 1-piperidinyl, 2-piperidinyl, 3-piperidinyl, 4-piperidinyl and 1-methyl-4-piperidinyl), a piperazinyl (including 1-piperazinyl and 4-methyl-1-piperazinyl), a tetrahydrofuranyl (including 2-tetrahydrofuranyl and 3-tetrahydrofuranyl), a tetrahydropyranyl (including 1-tetrahydropyranyl, 2-tetrahydropyranyl and 3-tetrahydropyranyl), or a 4-morpholinyl, group;

$-OR^{18}$;

$-N(R^{18})R^{19}$;

$-C(O)R^{18}$;

$-C(O)OR^{18}$;

$-C(O)N(R^{18})R^{19}$;

$-S(O)_mR^{20}$;

$-S(O)_2N(R^{18})R^{19}$; and/or

$-N(R^{18})S(O)_2R^{20}$,

wherein R^{18} and R^{19} independently represent, on each occasion when used above, H, phenyl or C_{1-6} alkyl, such as methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, *i*-propyl, *n*-butyl or *t*-butyl;

R^{20} represents, on each occasion when used above, C_{1-4} alkyl, such as methyl; and

m represents 0, 1 or 2.

When R^1 represents a heterocyclic group, it is preferably a thiophenyl group, such as a thiophen-2-yl group, a pyrazolyl group, such as a pyrazol-3-yl group (e.g. 5-methylpyrazol-3-yl) or a pyridinyl, such as a pyridin-2-yl group. When R^2 represents a heterocyclic group, it is preferably a pyridinyl group, such as a pyridin-2-yl group.

Preferred optional substituents on R^1 and R^2 include halo (e.g. fluoro, chloro and bromo), cyano, hydroxyl, amino, $-NO_2$, C_{1-4} alkyl (particularly methyl and *t*-butyl), C_{1-4} alkoxy (particularly methoxy), phenyl, phenoxy, trifluoromethyl, $-N(H)SO_2CH_3$, $-SO_2NH_2$ and $-SO_2N(CH_3)_2$.

Particularly preferred values of R^1 include thiophenyl, pyrazolyl (such as pyrazol-3-yl), pyridinyl (such as pyridin-2-yl) and phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from methyl, *t*-butyl, methoxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, trifluoromethyl, phenyl, hydroxyl, amino, $-NO_2$, $-SO_2NH_2$ and $-SO_2N(CH_3)_2$.

Particularly preferred values of R^2 include pyridin-2-yl and phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from methyl, phenoxy, $-N(H)SO_2CH_3$, methoxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl , $-NO_2$, $-SO_2NH_2$ and $-SO_2N(CH_3)_2$.

Substituents on phenyl groups that R^2 and, particularly, R^1 may represent are preferably located at the 3-position(s) relative to the point of attachment of that group to the rest of the molecule.

When R^3 and R^4 represent C_{1-6} alkyl, preferred substituents on such alkyl groups include halo, C_{1-6}-alkyl (e.g. C_{1-3} alkyl), cyano, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$, $-NH_2$, -N(H)Me, -N(H)Et, -N(H)*i*Pr, $-NMe_2$, -N(Me)Et, -N(Me)*i*Pr, $-NEt_2$, -OH, -OMe, -OEt, -O*i*Pr and =O. More preferred substituents include cyano and $-NO_2$.

Preferred alkyl groups that R^3 and R^4 may represent include C_{1-3} alkyl groups. For example, R^3 and/or R^4 may represent a methyl group.

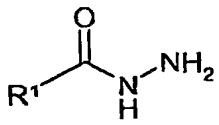
More preferred values of R^3 and R^4 include methyl and, particularly, H.

Particularly preferred compounds of formula I include those of the examples described hereinafter.

Compounds of formula I may be made in accordance with techniques that are well known to those skilled in the art, for example as described hereinafter.

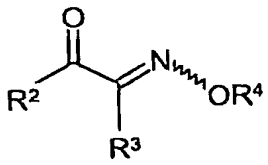
According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a process for the preparation of a compound of formula I, which process comprises:

(i) reaction of a compound of formula II,



II

wherein R^1 is as hereinbefore defined, or an acid addition (e.g. HCl) salt thereof, with a compound of formula III,



III

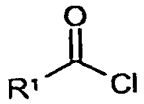
wherein the squiggly bond, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are as hereinbefore defined. Such a reaction may, for example, be carried out:

(a) in the case of a free base of formula II, by heating, optionally in the presence of a catalytic amount of acid (e.g. an organic acid, such as acetic acid, or an inorganic acid, such as sulfuric acid), and an

appropriate organic solvent (e.g. a lower alkyl alcohol, such as methanol or ethanol), for example as described in Misra *et al*, *J. Indian Chem. Soc.*, **1962**, *39*, 763-764, Giammanco *et al*, *Annali di Chimica (Rome)*, **1961**, *51*, 777-784 and *ibid.*, **1961**, *51*, 175-179; and

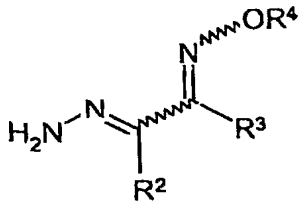
(b) in the case of an acid addition salt, at between room temperature and around 50°C in the presence of a suitable base (e.g. sodium or potassium acetate) and an appropriate solvent system (such as ethanol or water), for example as described in Rupe *et al*, *Chem. Ber.*, **1909**, *42*, 4715-4720 and Lalezari, *J. Org. Chem.*, **1968**, *33*, 4281-4283;

(ii) reaction of a compound of formula IV,



IV

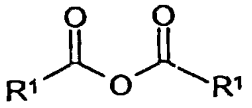
wherein R^1 is as hereinbefore defined with a compound of formula V,



V

wherein the squiggly bonds, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are as hereinbefore defined, for example as described in Dey, *J. Chem. Soc.*, **1914**, *105*, 1039-1046, Forster, *ibid.*, **1912**, *101*, 2234-2240 and Neunhoeffer, *Liebeigs Ann. Chem.* **1976**, 153-162;

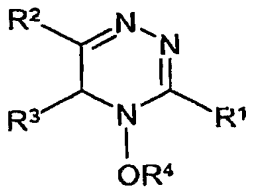
(iii) reaction of a compound of formula VI,



VI

wherein R^1 is as hereinbefore defined with either a compound of formula V as hereinbefore defined, for example as described in Neunhoeffer, *Liebeigs Ann. Chem.* 1976, 153-162;

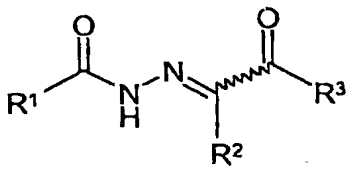
(iv) ring opening of a compound of formula VII,



VII

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are as hereinbefore defined, for example at around room temperature in the presence of a suitable base (e.g. sodium hydroxide) and an appropriate solvent (e.g. water), as described in Neunhoeffer, *Liebeigs Ann. Chem.* 1976, 153-162;

(v) reaction of a compound of formula VIII,



VIII

wherein the squiggly bond, R^1, R^2 and R^3 are as hereinbefore defined with a compound of formula IX,

R^4ONH_2 IX

wherein R^4 is as hereinbefore defined, or an acid addition (e.g. HCl) salt thereof, for example at between around 0°C and room temperature in the presence of a suitable base (e.g. KOH) and an appropriate solvent system (e.g. ethanol/water), for example as described in Metze, *Chem. Ber.* **1958**, 1861-1866;

(vi) for compounds of formula I in which R^4 represents optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, reaction of a corresponding compound of formula I in which R^4 represents H with a compound of formula X,

$R^{4a}L^1$ X

wherein L^1 is a suitable leaving group (e.g. halo, such as iodo) and R^{4a} is C_{1-6}-alkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, C_{1-6}-alkyl, cyano, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$, $-N(R^{14})R^{15}$, $-OR^{15}$ and =O, for example, in the case when L^1 is iodo, at low temperature, such as around 0°C in the presence of a suitable catalyst (e.g. silver (I) oxide) and an appropriate solvent (e.g. methanol and/or dichloromethane), for example as described in Buehler, *J. Org. Chem.*, **1967**, *32*, 261-265 and Adams *et al*, *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 2*, **1991**, 1809-1818; or

(vii) reaction of a compound of formula XI,

R^1L^2 XI

wherein L^2 is a suitable leaving group (e.g. halo) and R^1 is as hereinbefore defined with a compound of formula V as hereinbefore defined in the

presence of carbon monoxide (or another suitable CO source) for example by heating in the presence of an appropriate metal catalysts (e.g. Pd) and an appropriate solvent (e.g. DMF).

Compounds of formulae II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X and XI are either commercially available, are known in the literature, or may be obtained either by analogy with the processes described herein, or by conventional synthetic procedures, in accordance with standard techniques, from available starting materials using appropriate reagents and reaction conditions.

For example, compounds of formula III may be prepared by a variety of techniques, for example as described hereinafter.

Further, the substituents R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 as hereinbefore defined may be modified one or more times, after or during the processes described above for preparation of compounds of formula I by way of methods that are well known to those skilled in the art. Examples of such methods include substitutions, reductions, oxidations, alkylations, hydrolyses, esterifications, and etherifications. The precursor groups can be changed to a different such group, or to the groups defined in formula I, at any time during the reaction sequence.

Compounds of the formula I may be isolated from their reaction mixtures using conventional techniques.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that, in the processes described above and hereinafter, the functional groups of intermediate compounds may need to be protected by protecting groups.

The protection and deprotection of functional groups may take place before or after a reaction in the above-mentioned schemes.

Protecting groups may be removed in accordance with techniques that are well known to those skilled in the art and as described hereinafter. For example, protected compounds/intermediates described herein may be converted chemically to unprotected compounds using standard deprotection techniques.

The type of chemistry involved will dictate the need, and type, of protecting groups as well as the sequence for accomplishing the synthesis.

The use of protecting groups is fully described in "Protective Groups in Organic Chemistry", edited by J W F McOmie, Plenum Press (1973), and "Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis", 3rd edition, T.W. Greene & P.G.M. Wutz, Wiley-Interscience (1999).

Compounds of the formula I and salts thereof are useful because they possess pharmacological activity. Such compounds/salts are therefore indicated as pharmaceuticals.

Certain compounds of formula I have not been disclosed before for use as pharmaceuticals. According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a compound of formula I as hereinbefore defined, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, for use as a pharmaceutical, provided that, when R^4 represents H and:

(A) R^3 represents H and:

(I) R^2 represents phenyl, then R^1 does not represent 2-furanyl, 4-pyridinyl, 3-(5-methylisooxazolyl), phenyl, or 3-nitro-, 2-

hydroxy-, 2-hydroxy-3-methyl-, 4-(thiophenyl)-, 2-hydroxy-5-methyl- or 4-hydroxyphenyl;

(II) R^2 represents 4-chlorophenyl, then R^1 does not represent 2-furanyl, 4-pyridinyl, phenyl, or 2-hydroxy-5-methyl-, 4-hydroxy-, 2-hydroxy-3-methyl- or 2-hydroxyphenyl;

(III) R^2 represents 4-methylphenyl, then R^1 does not represent 4-pyridinyl, phenyl, or 3-nitro-, 2-hydroxy-5-methyl-, 4-hydroxy-, 2-hydroxy- or 4-(thiophenyl)phenyl; or

(IV) R^2 represents 2-furanyl or 2-benzofuranyl, then R^1 does not represent 4-pyridinyl or 3-(5-methylisooxazolyl); and

(B) R^3 represents methyl and:

(1) R^2 represents phenyl, then R^1 does not represent *N*-(4-bromophenyl)-2-amino-, *N*-(2-methoxyphenyl)-2-amino-, *N*-(2-ethoxyphenyl)-2-amino-, *N*-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-amino-, *N*-(4-methylphenyl)-2-amino-, *N*-(3-methylphenyl)-2-amino-, *N*-(2-methylphenyl)-2-amino- or *N*-(phenyl)-2-aminophenyl; or

(2) R^2 represents 4-chlorophenyl, then R^1 does not represent 4-pyridinyl, phenyl, or 3-nitro-, 2-hydroxy-5-methyl-, 4-hydroxy-, 2-hydroxy- or 2-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl.

Certain compounds of formula I are novel *per se*. According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a compound of formula I as defined above, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, with the additional provisos that, when R^4 represents H, R^2 represents phenyl and:

(a) R^3 represents H, then R^1 does not represent 2-pyridinyl, or 3-bromo-, 3,4-dimethoxy- or 2-hydroxy-5-bromophenyl; and

(b) R^3 represents methyl, then R^1 does not represent 4-methoxyphenyl.

Although compounds of formula I and salts thereof may possess pharmacological activity as such, certain pharmaceutically-acceptable (e.g.

"protected") derivatives of compounds of formula I may exist or be prepared which may not possess such activity, but may be administered parenterally or orally and thereafter be metabolised in the body to form compounds of formula I. Such compounds (which may possess some pharmacological activity, provided that such activity is appreciably lower than that of the "active" compounds to which they are metabolised), may therefore be described as "prodrugs" of compounds of formula I. All prodrugs of compounds of formula I are included within the scope of the invention.

By "prodrug of a compound of formula I", we include compounds that form a compound of formula I, in an experimentally-detectable amount, within a predetermined time (e.g. about 1 hour), following oral or parenteral administration.

Compounds of formula I and salts thereof are useful because, in particular, they may inhibit the activity of lipoxygenases, particularly 15-lipoxygenase, for example as may be demonstrated in the test described below. Compounds of formula I may thus be useful in the treatment of those conditions in which inhibition of a lipoxygenase, and particularly 15-lipoxygenase, is required.

Compounds of formula I, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, are thus expected to be useful in the treatment of inflammation.

The term "inflammation" will be understood by those skilled in the art to include any condition characterised by a localised or a systemic protective response, which may be elicited by physical trauma, infection, chronic diseases, such as those mentioned hereinbefore, and/or chemical and/or physiological reactions to external stimuli (e.g. as part of an allergic

response). Any such response, which may serve to destroy, dilute or sequester both the injurious agent and the injured tissue, may be manifest by, for example, heat, swelling, pain, redness, dilation of blood vessels and/or increased blood flow, invasion of the affected area by white blood cells, loss of function and/or any other symptoms known to be associated with inflammatory conditions.

The term "inflammation" will thus also be understood to include any inflammatory disease, disorder or condition *per se*, any condition that has an inflammatory component associated with it, and/or any condition characterised by inflammation as a symptom, including *inter alia* acute, chronic, ulcerative, specific, allergic and necrotic inflammation, and other forms of inflammation known to those skilled in the art. The term thus also includes, for the purposes of this invention, inflammatory pain and/or fever.

Accordingly, compounds of formula I may be useful in the treatment of asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), pulmonary fibrosis, allergic disorders, rhinitis, inflammatory bowel disease, ulcers, inflammatory pain, fever, atherosclerosis, coronary artery disease, vasculitis, pancreatitis, arthritis, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, conjunctivitis, iritis, scleritis, uveitis, wound healing, dermatitis, eczema, psoriasis, stroke, diabetes, autoimmune diseases, Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, sarcoidosis, Hodgkin's disease and other malignancies, and any other disease with an inflammatory component.

Compounds of formula I and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof may also have effects that are not linked to inflammatory mechanisms, such as in the reduction of bone loss in a subject. Conditions that may be mentioned in this regard include osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, Paget's disease and/or periodontal diseases. Compounds of formula I and pharmaceutically

acceptable salts thereof may thus also be useful in increasing bone mineral density, as well as the reduction in incidence and/or healing of fractures, in subjects.

Compounds of formula I are indicated both in the therapeutic and/or prophylactic treatment of the above-mentioned conditions.

According to a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of treatment of a disease in which inhibition of the activity of a lipoxygenase, and particularly 15-lipoxygenase, is desired and/or required (e.g. inflammation), which method comprises administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, to a patient suffering from, or susceptible to, such a condition.

"Patients" include mammalian (including human) patients.

The term "effective amount" refers to an amount of a compound, which confers a therapeutic effect on the treated patient. The effect may be objective (i.e. measurable by some test or marker) or subjective (i.e. the subject gives an indication of or feels an effect).

Compounds of formula I will normally be administered orally, intravenously, subcutaneously, buccally, rectally, dermally, nasally, tracheally, bronchially, by any other parenteral route or *via* inhalation, in a pharmaceutically acceptable dosage form.

The compounds of formula I may be administered alone, but are preferably administered by way of known pharmaceutical formulations, including tablets, capsules or elixirs for oral administration, suppositories for rectal

administration, sterile solutions or suspensions for parenteral or intramuscular administration, and the like.

Such formulations may be prepared in accordance with standard and/or accepted pharmaceutical practice.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is thus provided a pharmaceutical formulation including a compound of formula I as specified herein, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

Compounds of formula I may also be combined with other therapeutic agents that are useful in the treatment of inflammation as defined herein (e.g. NSAIDs, coxibs, corticosteroids, analgesics, inhibitors of 5-lipoxygenase, inhibitors of FLAP (5-lipoxygenase activating protein), and leukotriene receptor antagonists (LTRas), and/or other therapeutic agents that are useful in the treatment of inflammation).

According to a further aspect of the invention, there is provided a combination product comprising:

(A) a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; and

(B) another therapeutic agent that is useful in the treatment of inflammation,

wherein each of components (A) and (B) is formulated in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

Such combination products provide for the administration of compound of formula I or salt thereof in conjunction with the other therapeutic agent, and may thus be presented either as separate formulations, wherein at least one

of those formulations comprises compound of formula I/salt, and at least one comprises the other therapeutic agent, or may be presented (i.e. formulated) as a combined preparation (i.e. presented as a single formulation including compound of formula I/salt and the other therapeutic agent).

Thus, there is further provided:

(1) a pharmaceutical formulation including a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, another therapeutic agent that is useful in the treatment of inflammation, and a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier; and

(2) a kit of parts comprising components:

(a) a pharmaceutical formulation including a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier; and

(b) a pharmaceutical formulation including another therapeutic agent that is useful in the treatment of inflammation in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier,

which components (a) and (b) are each provided in a form that is suitable for administration in conjunction with the other.

Compounds of formula I and salts thereof may be administered at varying doses. Oral dosages may range from between about 0.01 mg/kg of body weight per day (mg/kg/day) to about 100 mg/kg/day, preferably about 0.01 to about 10 mg/kg/day, and more preferably about 0.1 to about 5.0 mg/kg/day. For oral administration, the compositions typically contain between about 0.01 mg to about 500 mg, and preferably between about 1 mg to about 100 mg, of the active ingredient. Intravenously, the most

preferred doses will range from about 0.1 to about 10 mg/kg/minute during constant rate infusion. Advantageously, compounds may be administered in a single daily dose, or the total daily dosage may be administered in divided doses of two, three or four times daily.

In any event, the physician, or the skilled person, will be able to determine the actual dosage which will be most suitable for an individual patient, which is likely to vary with the route of administration, the type and severity of the condition that is to be treated, as well as the species, age, weight, sex, renal function, hepatic function and response of the particular patient to be treated. The above-mentioned dosages are exemplary of the average case; there can, of course, be individual instances where higher or lower dosage ranges are merited, and such are within the scope of this invention.

Compounds of formula I and salts thereof may have the advantage that they are effective and/or selective inhibitors of lipoxygenases, and particularly 15-lipoxygenase.

Compounds of formula I and salts thereof may also have the advantage that they may be more efficacious than, be less toxic than, be longer acting than, be more potent than, produce fewer side effects than, be more easily absorbed than, and/or have a better pharmacokinetic profile (e.g. higher oral bioavailability and/or lower clearance) than, and/or have other useful pharmacological, physical, or chemical properties over, compounds known in the prior art, whether for use in the stated indications or otherwise.

Biological Test

The assay employed takes advantage of the ability of lipid hydroperoxides to oxidize the non-fluorescent diphenyl-1-pyrenylphosphine (DPPP) to its corresponding fluorescent phosphine oxide. Fluorescence is measured using a dual-scanning microplate spectrofluorometer, Spectramax Gemini, from Molecular Devices. DPPP was purchased from Molecular Probes. Linoleic acid was from Biomol and PBS (phosphate buffered saline) from Gibco Life Technologies. The assay is performed in 96-well plates at room temperature (20-22°C). The following are added (in the following order) to each well:

a) 35 µl of Dulbecco's phosphate buffered saline (PBS);

b) inhibitor (i.e. compound) or vehicle (0.5 µl DMSO);

c) 10 µL of a 5 x concentrated 15-lipoxygenase solution in PBS. The plates are incubated for 5 minutes at room temperature;

d) 5 µl of 2 mM linoleic acid in PBS. The plate is then incubated for 20 minutes at room temperature;

e) the enzymatic reaction is terminated by the addition of 50 µl methanol; and

f) 50 µl of 200 µM DPPP in methanol is added to each well.

After 30 minutes at room temperature, the fluorescence can be read using an excitation wavelength of 358 nm and an emission wavelength of 379 nm.

The invention is illustrated by way of the following examples.

Starting materials and chemical reagents specified in the syntheses described below are commercially available from, *e.g.* Sigma-Aldrich Fine Chemicals.

General Procedures

Many of the examples below were prepared in accordance with the following procedure:

The relevant hydrazide of formula II as described herein (2.4 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (10 mL) and cooled to 0°C. Two drops of concentrated sulfuric acid were added followed by dropwise addition of the relevant oxime of formula III as described herein (2 mmol) dissolved in MeOH (10 mL). The reaction was heated at reflux for 16 h. The product could be isolated by chromatography or, if a precipitate is formed during the reaction, this could be filtered off, washed with MeOH and recrystalized from MeOH/water.

Starting materials were commercially available, but in the event that they were not, the following general procedures were employed.

Procedure A:

Isoamyl nitrite (1.83 g, 15.6 mmol) was dissolved in ice-cold ethanolic sodium ethoxide (0.9 M, 18.3 mL, 16.5 mmol). The relevant acetophenone (14.9 mmol) was added dropwise to the cooled solution and the reaction was allowed to reach room temperature and continued for 16 h. The solid formed during the course of the reaction was filtered off, washed with diethyl ether, dissolved in water and the aqueous solution acidified with glacial acetic acid. The resultant crystalline solid was filtered off and recrystalized from EtOH/water.

Procedure B

Isoamyl nitrite (1.83 g, 15.6 mmol) was dissolved in ice cold ethanolic sodium ethoxide (0.9 M, 18.3 mL, 16.5 mmol). The relevant acetophenone

(14.9 mmol) was added dropwise to the cooled solution. The reaction was allowed to reach room temperature and continued for 16 h. Water (100 mL) was then added, and the mixture was extracted with diethyl ether. The aqueous phase was acidified with glacial acetic acid and extracted with diethylether. The organic phase was dried (Na_2SO_4), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography gave the desired product.

Procedure C

Selenium dioxide (3.0 g, 27 mmol) was dissolved in a mixture of dioxane (20 mL) and water (600 µL), and the relevant acetophenone (27 mmol) was added. The mixture was heated at reflux for 16 h, filtered through Celite®, diluted with water and adjusted to pH = 4 with aqueous 4 M NaOH. A solution of hydroxylamine hydrochloride (2.3 g, 33 mmol) in aqueous NaOH (4 M, 8.3 mL, 33.2 mmol) was added and the pH was adjusted to 4 with aqueous 4 M NaOH. The reaction was left for 16 h at 50°C, diluted with water/ice and extracted with diethyl ether. The combined organic phases were washed with water, dried (Na_2SO_4), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography gave the desired product, which was recrystalized from EtOH/water.

Preparation of Intermediates

Preparation 1

2-Oxo-2-(2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acetaldehyde oxime

General procedure C was employed to give the title compound as a yellow crystalline solid in 73% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.00 (s, 1H), 7.97 (s, 1H), 7.84-7.61 (m, 4H)

Preparation 2

2-(2-Butoxyphenyl)-2-oxoacetaldehyde oxime

General procedure C was employed to give the title compound as a yellow crystalline solid in 68% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.44 (s, 1H), 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.48 (dt, 1H), 7.37 (dd, 1H), 7.12 (d, 1H), 7.01 (t, 1H), 4.01 (t, 2H), 1.69-1.60 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.36 (m, 2H), 0.90 (t, 3H)

Preparation 3

2-(2-Fluorophenyl)-2-oxoacetaldehyde oxime

General procedure C was employed to give the title compound as a yellow crystalline solid in 44% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.86 (s, 1H), 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.65-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.28 (m, 2H)

Preparation 4

2-Oxo-2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)acetaldehyde oxime

General procedure B was employed to give the title compound as a yellow crystalline solid in 33% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.61 (s, 1H), 8.06-8.03 (m, 3H), 7.47 (t, 2H), 7.26 (t, 1H), 7.14 (d, 2H), 7.06 (d, 2H)

Preparation 5

2-(2-Bromophenyl)-2-oxoacetaldehyde oxime

General procedure A was employed to give the title compound as a yellow crystalline solid in 28% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.95 (s, 1H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.68 (d, 1H), 7.48-7.40 (m, 3H)

Preparation 6

N-(3-(2-(Hydroxyimino)acetyl)phenyl)methanesulfonamide

General procedure C was employed to give the title compound as a light brown crystalline solid in 24% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.76 (bs, 1H), 10.05 (bs, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.83 (bs, 1H), 7.80-7.76 (m, 1H), 7.58-7.51 (m, 2H), 3.09 (s, 3H)

Examples

Example 1

4-*tert*-Butyl-N'-(2-(hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)benzohydrazide

4-*tert*-Butylbenzohydrazide (100 mg, 309 μmol), 2-isonitrosoacetophenone (46 mg, 309 μmol), 2 drops of glacial acetic acid and absolute ethanol (3 mL) were mixed in a closed reaction vessel flushed with nitrogen and equipped with a stir bar. The reaction mixture was heated at 85°C with magnetic stirring for 4 h., and then kept in a freezer overnight. The solid that formed was collected and recrystallized from EtOH/water to yield 22 mg (22%) of the desired product as a white crystalline solid.

^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.26 (br s, 1H), 12.70 (br s, 1H), 8.52 (s, 1H), 7.87-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.80-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.60-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.41 (m, 3H), 1.32 (s, 9H). ^{13}C-NMR (100.5 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 163.4, 155.3, 145.2, 141.5, 136.3, 130.0, 129.3, 128.5, 127.4, 127.1, 125.7, 34.8, 30.9

Example 2

3-Bromo-N'-(2-(methoxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)benzohydrazide

3-Bromo-N'-(2-(hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)benzohydrazide (10 mg, 28.9 μmol) and methyl iodide (21 mg, 144 μmol) were dissolved in methanol/dichloromethane (1:1, 5 mL) and cooled in an icebath. Silver (I) oxide (7.4 mg, 32 μmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at 0°C. Methyl iodide (21 mg, 144 μmol) was added and the reaction was stirred at

room temperature for 16 h. The mixture was filtered, concentrated and purified by chromatography to yield 6.3 mg (61%) of the desired product as a white crystalline solid.

^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, CD_3CN) δ 13.16 (br s, 1H), 8.41 (s, 1H), 8.08 (t, J = 2 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 9 Hz, 1H), 7.82-7.70 (m, 3H), 7.53-7.40 (m, 4H), 4.16 (s, 3H)

Example 3

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)-3-methoxybenzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a white crystalline solid in 32% isolated yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.05 (s, 1H), 12.60 (s, 1H), 8.51 (s, 1H), 7.77-7.76 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.41 (m, 6H), 7.23-7.20 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H)

Example 4

3-Chloro-N'-(2-(hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a colourless powder in 45% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.89 (s, 1H), 12.58 (s, 1H), 8.54 (s, 1H), 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.91-7.73 (m, 4H), 7.61 (t, 1H), 7.45 (bs, 3H)

Example 5

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)thiophene-2-carbohydrazide

Thiophene-2-carbohydrazide (100 mg, 703 μmol), 2-isonitroso-acetophenone (126 mg, 844 μmol), 2 drops of glacial acetic acid and absolute ethanol (4 mL) were mixed in a closed reaction vessel flushed with nitrogen and equipped with a stir bar. The reaction mixture was heated at 85°C with magnetic stirring for 16 h and then kept in a freezer overnight. The crystalline solid formed was collected and purified by chromatography

to yield 27 mg (14% isolated yield) of the desired product as a white crystalline solid.

^{1}H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.35 (br s, 1H), 8.53 (s, 1H), 8.12-7.75 (m, 4H), 7.46 (m, 3H), 7.26 (m, 1H)

Example 6

4-Chloro-N'-(2-(hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)benzohydrazide

4-Chlorobenzoic hydrazide (200.1 mg, 1.17 mmol) was dissolved in ethanol (4 mL) in a reaction vial. To this was added 2-isonitrosoacetophenone (212 mg, 1.40 mmol) and 2 drops of acetic acid. The vial was heated at 82°C with magnetic stirring. After 4 hours, the reaction was stopped and the reaction mixture was put in the freezer. Upon cooling a precipitate formed. This was filtered off and recrystallised from ethanol to give the desired product in 41% yield (146.3 mg, 0.48 mmol).

^{1}H-NMR (270 MHz, dmso-d_6) δ 13.1 (s, 1H), 12.6 (s, 1H), 8.53 (s, 1H), 7.90 (d, 2H), 7.76 (s, 2H), 7.64 (d, 2H), 7.46(s, 3H)

Example 7

2-Bromo-N'-(2-(hydroxyimino)-1-(4-phenoxyphenyl)ethylidene)benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed (using the intermediate from Preparation 4) to give a mixture of isomers of the title compound as a yellow powder in 23% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.48 (s, 1H, minor isomer), 12.34 (s, 1H), 12.21 (s, 1H, major), 8.50 (s, 1H, minor), 8.49 (s, 1H, major), 7.78 – 7.37 (m, 8H), 7.22-7.00 (m, 4H), 6.90 (d, 1H)

Example 8

N'-(1-(2-Chlorophenyl)-2-(hydroxyimino)ethylidene)benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a yellow powder in 15% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.6 (s, 1H), 12.43 (s, 1H), 8.41 (s, 1H), 7.90 (d, 2H), 7.62-7.39 (m, 7H)

Example 9

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethylidene)benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a yellow powder in 9% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.1 (s, 1H), 12.59 (s, 1H), 8.50 (s, 1H), 7.88 (d, 2H), 7.78-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.66-7.52 (m, 3H), 7.01 (d, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H)

Example 10

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-(3-hydroxyphenyl)ethylidene)benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a beige crystalline solid in 16% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.20 (s, 1H), 12.61 (s, 1H), 9.60 (s, 1H), 8.42 (s, 1H), 7.90 (d, 2H), 7.69-7.53 (m, 3H), 7.28-7.14 (m, 3H), 6.84 (d, 1H)

Example 11

N'-(1-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-(hydroxyimino)ethylidene)benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as an off-white powder in 35% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.16 (s, 1H), 12.64 (s, 1H), 8.53 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, 2H), 7.75- 7.54 (m, 7H)

Example 12

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)-3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give a mixture of isomers of the title compound as a colourless crystalline solid in 36% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.58 (s, 1H, minor), 12.46 (s, 1H), 12.27 (s, 1H, major), 8.64 (s, 1H), 8.52 (s, 2H), 8.42-8.34 (m, 1H), 7.76-7.44 (m, 5H)

Example 13

2-Bromo-N'-(1-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-(hydroxyimino)ethylidene)benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed (using the intermediate from Preparation 3) to give a mixture of isomers of the title compound as an off-white powder in 18% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.41 (s, 1H, minor), 12.35 (s, 1H, minor), 12.32 (s, 1H, major), 12.12 (s, 1H, major), 8.59 (s, 1H), 7.80 - 7.17 (m, 8H)

Example 14

N'-(1-(3-Chlorophenyl)-2-(hydroxyimino)ethylidene)benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a colourless crystalline solid in 36% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.21 (s, 1H), 12.63 (s, 1H), 8.57 (s, 1H), 7.90 (d, 2H), 8.82 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d, 1H), 7.70-7.46 (m, 5H)

Example 15

N'-(1-(3-Chlorophenyl)-2-(hydroxyimino)ethylidene)-2-methylbenzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a colourless crystalline solid in 19% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.43 (s, 2H), 8.53 (s, 1H), 7.77 (d, 1H), 7.55-7.28 (m, 7H), 2.42 (s, 3H)

Example 16

3-Bromo-N'-(2-(hydroxyimino)-1-(4-phenoxyphenyl)ethylidene)-benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed (using the intermediate from Preparation 4) to give the title compound as a colourless crystalline solid in 59% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.79 (s, 1H), 12.57 (s, 1H), 8.53 (s, 1H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.86-7.76 (m, 4H), 7.51 (t, 1H), 7.43 (t, 2H), 7.19 (t, 1H), 7.07 (t, 4H)

Example 17

3-Bromo-N'-(2-(hydroxyimino)-1-(3-hydroxyphenyl)ethylidene)benzo-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a colourless powder in 4% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.90 (s, 1H), 12.58 (s, 1H), 9.61 (s, 1H), 8.46 (s, 1H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d, 2H), 7.52 (t, 1H), 7.24-7.15 (m, 3H), 6.85 (d, 1H)

Example 18

3-Bromo-N'-(1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(hydroxyimino)ethylidene)benzo-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a colourless crystalline solid in 46% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.82 (s, 1H), 12.59 (s, 1H), 8.55 (s, 1H), 8.03 (d, 1H), 7.86-7.81 (m 2H), 7.78-7.63 (m, 4H), 7.54-7.45 (m, 1H)

Example 19

N'-(1-(3-Chlorophenyl)-2-(hydroxyimino)ethylidene)-2-fluorobenzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give a mixture of isomers of the title compound as a colourless crystalline solid in 24% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.76 (s, 1H, major isomer), 12.53 (s, 1H), 12.42 (s, 1H, minor isomer), 8.56 (s, 1H, minor isomer), 8.51 (s, 1H, major isomer), 7.87-7.37 (m, 8H)

Example 20

4-Phenyl-N'-(2-(hydroxyimino)-1-(4-phenoxyphenyl)ethylidene)benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed (using the intermediate from Preparation 4) to give the title compound as a beige powder in 47% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.15 (s, 1H), 12.64 (s, 1H), 8.54 (s, 1H), 7.99 (d, 2H), 7.86-7.70 (m, 6H), 7.53 (t, 2H), 7.44 (t, 3H), 7.20 (t, 1H), 7.08 (t, 4H)

Example 21

3-Bromo-N'-(2-(hydroxyimino)-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)ethylidene)benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a colourless crystalline solid in 63% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.94 (s, 1H), 12.60 (s, 1H), 8.53 (s, 1H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d, 2H), 7.52 (t, 1H), 7.37-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.03 (d, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H)

Example 22

3-Bromo-N'-(2-(hydroxyimino)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethylidene)benzo-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a yellow crystalline solid in 78% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.80 (s, 1H), 12.53 (s, 1H), 8.51 (s, 1H), 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d, 2H), 7.73 (d, 2H), 7.51 (t, 1H), 7.00 (d, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H)

Example 23

N'-(1-(2-Fluorophenyl)-2-(hydroxyimino)ethylidene)-4-phenylbenzo-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed (using the intermediate from Preparation 3) to give the title compound as a colourless powder in 58% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.79 (s, 1H), 12.51 (s, 1H), 8.44 (d, 1H), 8.00 (d, 2H), 7.84 (d, 2H), 7.76 (d, 2H), 7.59-7.41 (m, 5H), 7.33-7.27 (m, 2H)

Example 24

4-*tert*-Butyl-N'-(2-(hydroxyimino)-1-(4-phenoxyphenyl)ethylidene)benzo-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed (using the intermediate from Preparation 4) to give the title compound as a yellow powder in 52% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.18 (s, 1H), 12.62 (s, 1H), 8.52 (s, 1H), 7.86-7.79 (m, 4H), 7.57 (d, 2H), 7.44 (t, 2H), 7.20 (t, 1H), 7.10-7.04 (m, 4H), 1.33 (s, 9H)

Example 25

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)ethylidene)benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a pink powder in 45% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.28 (s, 1H), 12.60 (s, 1H), 8.52 (s, 1H), 7.90 (d, 2H), 7.66-7.55 (m, 3H), 7.40-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.02 (d, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H)

Example 26

3-Bromo-N'-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(hydroxyimino)ethylidene)benzo-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a colourless powder in 75% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.81 (s, 1H), 12.59 (s, 1H), 8.55 (s, 1H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.86-8.77 (m, 4H), 7.54-7.49 (m, 3H)

Example 27

4-*tert*-Butyl-N'-1-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-(hydroxyimino)ethylidene)benzo-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed (using the intermediate from Preparation 3) to give the title compound as a pink powder in 29% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.83 (s, 1H), 12.50 (s, 1H), 8.38 (d, 1H), 7.84 (d, 2H), 7.58-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.33-7.26 (m, 2H), 1.33 (s, 9H)

Example 28

N'-(1-(2-Bromophenyl)-2-(hydroxyimino)ethylidene)-4-*tert*-butylbenzo-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed (using the intermediate from Preparation 5) to give the title compound as a white powder in 18% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.62 (s, 1H), 12.43 (s, 1H), 8.37 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d, 2H), 7.70 (d, 1H), 7.55 (d, 2H), 7.48 (d, 2H), 7.44-7.35 (m, 1H), 1.33 (s, 9H)

Example 29

3-Bromo-N'-(1-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-(hydroxyimino)ethylidene)benzo-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a white powder in 41% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.36 (s, 1H), 12.24 (s, 1H), 8.55 (s, 1H), 8.09 (s, 1H), 7.86-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.61-7.44 (m, 5H)

Example 30

3-Chloro-N'-(1-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-(hydroxyimino)ethylidene)benzo-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed (using the intermediate from Preparation 3) to give the title compound as a colourless powder in 40% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ12.42 (s, 2H), 8.51 (d, 1H), 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d, 1H), 7.69 (d, 1H), 7.59-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.31-7.25 (m, 2H)

Example 31

N'-(1-(2-Bromophenyl)-2-(hydroxyimino)ethylidene)-4-phenylbenzo-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed (using the intermediate from Preparation 5) to give the title compound as a colourless crystalline solid in 5% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.58 (s, 1H), 12.44 (s, 1H), 8.00 (d, 1H), 8.00 (d, 1H), 7.85- 7.67 (m, 5H), 7.54-7.36 (m, 7H)

Example 32

3-Chloro-N'-(2-(hydroxyimino)-1-(4-phenoxyphenyl)ethylidene)benzo-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed (using the intermediate from Preparation 4) to give the title compound as a salmon coloured powder in 70% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.82 (s, 1H), 12.56 (s, 1H), 8.53 (s, 1H), 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.82-7.69 (m, 4H), 7.58 (t, 1H), 7.44 (t, 2H), 7.20 (t, 1H), 7.07 (t, 4H)

Example 33

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)-3,4,5-trimethoxybenzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a white powder in 76% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.8 (s, 1H), 12.51 (s, 1H), 8.51 (s, 1H), 7.78-7.75 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.13 (s, 2H), 3.89 (s, 6H), 3.75 (s, 3H)

Example 34

2-Bromo-N'-(2-(hydroxyimino)-1-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethylidene)-benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give a mixture of isomers of the title compound as a colourless crystalline solid in 49% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.51 (s, 1H, major isomer), 12.41 (s, 1H), 12.27 (s, 1H, minor isomer), 8.63 (s, 1H, major isomer), 8.59 (s, 1H, minor isomer), 8.03 (bs, 1H), 7.84-7.40 (m, 7H)

Example 35

4-*tert*-Butyl-N'-(2-(hydroxyimino)-1-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethylidene)-benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a colourless crystalline solid in 43% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.19 (s, 1H), 12.65 (s, 1H), 8.62 (s, 1H), 8.09-8.07 (m, 2H), 7.83 (t, 3H), 7.70 (t, 1H), 7.58 (d, 2H), 1.33 (s, 9H)

Example 36

2,5-Dichloro-N'-(2-(hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give a mixture of isomers of the title compound as a colourless crystalline solid in 20% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.50 (s, 1H, major isomer), 12.44 (s, 1H, minor isomer), 12.33 (s, 1H, major isomer), 12.18 (s, 1H, minor isomer), 8.52 (s, 1H, major isomer), 8.50 (s, 1H, minor isomer), 7.80-7.57 (m, 4H), 7.46-7.32 (m, 4H)

Example 37

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethylidene)-4-phenyl-benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a colourless crystalline solid in 26% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.19 (s, 1H), 12.69 (s, 1H), 8.65 (s, 1H), 8.10-7.94 (m, 4H), 7.84-7.68 (m, 5H), 7.55-7.40 (m, 4H)

Example 38

3-Bromo-N'-(2-(hydroxyimino)-1-(pyridin-2-yl)ethylidene)benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a yellow crystalline solid in 42% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.51 (s, 1H), 12.73 (s, 1H), 8.87 (s, 1H), 8.63 (d, 1H), 8.05-8.06 (m, 2H), 7.99-7.84 (m, 3H), 7.54 (t, 1H), 7.47 (t, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H)

Example 39

3-Bromo-N'-(1-(2-bromophenyl)-2-(hydroxyimino)ethylidene)benzo-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed (using the intermediate from Preparation 5) to give the title compound as a beige powder in 8% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.37 (s, 1H), 12.22 (s, 1H), 8.55 (s, 1H), 8.09-8.03 (m, 1H), 7.92-7.75 (m, 2H), 6.69 (d, 1H), 7.53-7.34 (m, 4H)

Example 40

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzo-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a white crystalline solid in 74% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.09 (s, 1H), 12.58 (s, 1H), 8.54 (s, 1H), 8.08 (d, 2H), 7.91 (d, 2H), 7.78-7.75 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.40 (m, 3H)

Example 41

3-Hydroxy-N'-(2-(hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a beige crystalline solid in 8% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.1 (s, 1H), 12.60 (s, 1H), 9.83 (s, 1H), 8.50 (s, 1H), 7.78-7.75 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.03 (dd, 1H)

Example 42

3-Amino-N'-(2-(hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a beige crystalline solid in 18% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.15 (s, 1H), 12.60 (s, 1H), 8.51 (s, 1H), 7.54-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.38-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.05-7.02 (m, 1H)

Example 43

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)-3-methylbenzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a light yellow powder in 53% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.12 (s, 1H), 12.63 (s, 1H), 8.52 (s, 1H), 7.78-7.67 (m, 4H), 7.46-7.44 (m, 5H), 2.43 (s, 3H)

Example 44

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-(3-hydroxyphenyl)ethylidene)-2-methyl-benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a brown crystalline solid in 26% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.65 (s, 1H), 12.55 (s, 1H), 9.85 (s, 1H), 8.58 (s, 1H), 7.75-7.30 (m, 7H), 7.05-7.02 (m, 1H), 2.68 (s, 3H)

Example 45

3-Bromo-N'-(2-(hydroxyimino)-1-(3-(methylsulfonamido)phenyl)-ethylidene)benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed (using the intermediate from Preparation 6) to give the title compound as a beige crystalline solid in 66% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.8 (s, 1H), 12.66 (s, 1H), 9.93 (s, 1H), 8.54 (s, 1H), 8.11 (s, 1H), 7.92-7.90 (m, 2H), 7.63-7.36 (m, 5H), 3.07 (s, 3H)

Example 46

3-Bromo-N'-(1-(3-bromophenyl)-2-(hydroxyimino)ethylidene)benzo-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a white powder in 72% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.8 (s, 1H), 12.66 (s, 1H), 8.57 (s, 1H), 8.05 (t, 1H), 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d, 2H), 7.77 (d, 1H), 7.64 (d, 1H), 7.52 (t, 1H), 7.41 (t, 1H)

Example 47

3-Bromo-N'-(1-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-(hydroxyimino)ethylidene)benzo-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a white powder in 12% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.8 (s, 1H), 12.60 (s, 1H), 8.58 (s, 1H), 8.05 (t, 1H), 7.85 (d, 2H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, 1H), 7.54-7.48 (m, 3H)

Example 48

4-Fluoro-N'-(2-(hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a yellow powder in 54% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.10 (s, 1H), 12.62 (s, 1H), 8.60 (s, 1H), 7.99-7.95 (m, 2H), 7.76 (bs, 2H), 7.52-7.25 (m, 5H)

Example 49

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)-4-methoxybenzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a white powder in 25% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.8 (s, 1H), 12.62 (s, 1H), 8.51 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, 2H), 7.78-7.75 (m, 2H), 7.52-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.08 (d, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H)

Example 50

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)-2-methoxybenzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give a mixture of isomers of the title compound as a colourless crystalline solid in 20% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.96 (s, 1H, minor isomer), 12.29 (s, 1H, minor isomer), 11.81 (s, 1H, major isomer), 10.94 (s, 1H, major isomer), 8.41 (s, 1H, minor isomer), 8.06 (d, 1H, minor isomer), 8.03 (s, 1H, major isomer), 7.92-7.05 (m, 9H), 3.98 (s, 3H)

Example 51

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)-2-nitrobenzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give a mixture of isomers of the title compound as a colourless crystalline solid in 32% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.52 (s, 1H, major isomer), 12.43 (s, 1H, major isomer), 12.32 (s, 1H, minor isomer), 12.40 (s, 1H, minor isomer), 8.49 (s, 1H, major isomer), 8.48 (s, 1H, minor isomer), 8.22-8.17 (m, 1H), 7.92-7.89 (m, 1H), 7.87-7.70 (m, 3H), 7.47-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.27 (m, 3H)

Example 52

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)-4-methylbenzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a white powder in 18% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.2 (s, 1H), 12.64 (s, 1H), 8.52 (s, 1H), 7.78 (d, 2H), 7.77-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.37 (d, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H)

Example 53

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)-2-fluorobenzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as an off white cotton in 27% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.78 (bs, 1H), 12.50 (s, 1H), 8.48 (s, 1H), 7.88-7.35 (m, 9H)

Example 54

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)-4-bromobenzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as yellow crystals in 55% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.09 (bs, 1H), 12.60 (s, 1H), 8.53 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d, 2H), 7.77-7.74 (m, 4H), 7.46-7.44 (m, 3H)

Example 55

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)-2-aminobenzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as yellow needles in 37% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.09 (s, 1H), 12.60 (s, 1H), 8.50 (s, 1H), 7.79-7.76 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.44 (m, 4H), 7.26 (t, 1H), 6.81 (d, 1H), 6.65 (bs, 2H), 6.61 (t, 1H)

Example 56

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)-2-methylbenzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as off white crystals in 40% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.47 (s, 1H), 12.41 (s, 1H), 8.49 (s, 1H), 7.77 (bs, 1H), 7.51-7.33 (m, 8H), 2.43 (s, 3H)

Example 57

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-(2-methoxyphenyl)ethylidene)-3-bromobenzo-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a white powder in 44% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.81 (s, 1H), 12.36 (s, 1H), 8.25 (s, 1H), 8.05 (bs, 1H), 7.84 (d, 2H), 7.54-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.11 (d, 1H), 7.02 (t, 1H)

Example 58

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)-2,4-dichlorobenzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a white powder in 58% yield (isomer-ratio (A/B): 1/1).

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.53 (s, 1H), 12.45 (s, 1H), 12.37 (s, 1H), 12.27 (s, 1H), 8.52 (s, 1H), 8.49 (s, 1H), 7.80-7.69 (m, 3H), 7.60-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.36-7.32 (m, 1H)

Example 59

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)-3,4-dimethoxybenzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a white powder in 71% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.90 (bs, 1H), 12.60 (s, 1H), 8.51 (s, 1H), 7.78-7.75 (m, 2H), 7.49-7.45 (m, 5H), 7.08 (d, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H)

Example 60

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)-2,5-dichlorobenzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a white powder in 24% yield (isomer-ratio (A/B): 1/1)

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.52 (s, 1H, form A), 12.45 (s, 1H, form B), 12.35 (s, 1H, form A), 12.19 (s, 1H, form B), 8.52 (s, 1H, form A), 8.50 (s, 1H, form B), 7.80 (bs, 1H, form A or B), 7.73-7.70 (m, 2H, form A + B), 7.67 (d, 1H, form A or B), 7.63-7.57 (m, 4H, form A + B), 7.47-7.42 (m, 5H, form A + B), 7.36-7.30 (m, 3H, form A + B)

Example 61

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)-4-nitrobenzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as yellow crystals in 31% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 13.06 (s, 1H), 12.58 (s, 1H), 8.54 (s, 1H), 8.35 (d, 2H), 8.12 (d, 2H), 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.50-7.38 (m, 4H)

Example 62

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-*m*-tolylethylidene)-3-chlorobenzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a white powder in 41% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.58 (s, 1H), 8.52 (s, 1H), 7.92-7.88 (m, 2H), 7.81 (d, 1H), 7.72-7.51 (m, 4H), 7.38-7.24 (m, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H)

Example 63

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-(3-nitrophenyl)ethylidene)-3-chlorobenzo-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a white powder in 58% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 12.63 (s, 1H), 8.67 (s, 1H), 8.55 (bs, 1H), 8.32 (t, 1H), 8.20 (d, 1H), 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.90-7.88 (m, 1H), 7.83 (d, 1H), 7.79-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.62-7.52 (m, 1H)

Example 64

N'-(2-(Hydroxyimino)-1-phenylethylidene)-5-methyl-1H-pyrazole-3-carbohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as colourless crystals in 5% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 13.05 (s, 1H), 13.01 (s, 1H), 12.55 (s, 1H), 8.40 (s, 1H), 7.75 (dd, 2H), 7.46-7.43 (m, 3H), 6.55 (s, 1H), 3.31 (s, 3H)

Example 65

6-Methylpyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2-hydroxyimino-1-phenylethylidene)-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as yellow crystals in 13% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6): 13.74 (s, 1H), 12.50 (s, 1H), 8.45 (s, 1H), 7.98-7.92 (m, 2H), 7.82-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.55 (dd, 1H), 7.49-7.47 (m, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H).

Example 66

6-Chloronicotinic acid (2-hydroxyimino-1-phenylethylidene)hydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as a white powder in 73% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6): 12.92 (s, 1H), 12.58 (s, 1H), 8.89 (bs, 1H), 8.56 (s, 1H), 8.30-8.27 (m, 1H), 7.75-7.71 (m, 3H), 7.46 (bs, 3H).

Example 67

3-Methoxybenzoic acid [2-hydroxyimino-1-(3-nitrophenyl)ethylidene]-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as off-white crystals in 42% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6): 12.99 (s, 1H), 12.67 (s, 1H), 8.63 (s, 1H), 8.57 (bs, 1H), 8.29 (d, 1H), 8.21 (d, 1H), 7.75 (t, 1H), 7.51-7.43 (m, 3H), 7.23 (d, 1H), 3.32 (s, 3H).

Example 68

6-Methylnicotinic acid (2-hydroxyimino-1-phenylethylidene)hydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as white cotton crystals in 27% yield.

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6): 13.09 (s, 1H), 12.64 (s, 1H), 8.94 (bs, 1H), 8.53 (s, 1H), 8.14 (dd, 1H), 7.76 (bs, 2H), 7.45 (bs, 3H), 2.58 (s, 3H).

Example 69

5-Bromonicotinic acid (2-hydroxyimino-1-phenylethylidene)hydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound as off white flakes in 42% yield (10% impurities).

^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d_6): 12.67 (s, 1H), 12.55 (s, 1H), 9.00 (bs, 1H), 8.95 (bs, 1H), 8.57 (s, 1H), 8.48 (bs, 1H), 7.73 (bs, 2H), 7.46 (bs, 3H).

Example 70

3-Methylbenzoic acid [1-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxyiminoethylidene]-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound in 1.9% yield after dry column chromatography and recrystallisation.

1H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d6): 13.09 & 12.85 (1H, br s, rotamers), 12.66 (1H, s), 8.56 (1H, s), 7.93-7.35 (8H, m), 2.43 & 2.36 (3H, s, rotamers).

Example 71

3-Methoxybenzoic acid [1-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxyiminoethylidene]-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound in 2.3% yield after dry column chromatography and recrystallisation

1H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d6): 13.02 & 12.98 (1H, br s, rotamers), 12.63 (1H, s), 8.55 (1H, s), 7.94-7.18 (8H, m), 3.85 & 3.80 (3H, s, rotamers).

Example 72

3-Chlorobenzoic acid [1-(3-fluorophenyl)-2-hydroxyiminoethylidene]-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound in 15% yield after dry column chromatography and recrystallisation.

1H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d6): 13.32 & 12.91 (1H, br s, rotamers), 12.62 (1H, s), 8.57 (1H, s), 7.92-7.16 (8H, m)

Example 73

3-Fluorobenzoic acid [1-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxyiminoethylidene]-hydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound in 2.8% yield after dry column chromatography and recrystallisation.

1H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d6): 12.98 (1H, br s), 12,65 (1H, s), 8,57 (1H, s), 7.93-7.46 (8H, m)

Example 74

(3-Chloro-N'-(2-(hydroxyimino)-1-phenylpropylidene)benzohydrazide

The general procedure was employed to give the title compound.

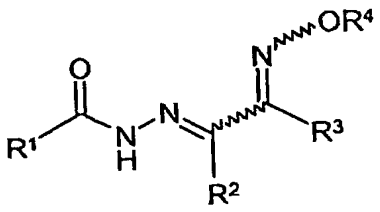
^{1}H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d6): 12.21 (br s, 1H), 12.09 (br s, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 7 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 7 Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.52 (m, 3H), 7.51-7.43 (m, 3H), 1.97 (s, 3H)

Example 75

Title compounds of the Examples were tested in the biological test described above and were found to exhibit at least 50% inhibition of 15-lipoxygenase.

Claims

1. A use of a compound of formula I,



I

wherein

the squiggly bonds represent optional *E* or *Z* geometry;

R^1 and R^2 independently represent an aryl group or a heteroaryl group, both of which groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from:

X^1, C_{1-8} alkyl, an aryl group and a heterocylic group:-

(A) which C_{1-8} alkyl group is itself optionally substituted by one or more Z substituents; and

(B) which C_{1-8} alkyl, aryl and heterocylic groups may themselves be substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^1, C_{1-8}-alkyl (which latter group may be further substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^1, C_{1-8}-alkyl, an aryl group, a heterocylic group and Z), an aryl group and a heterocylic group (and which latter two groups may be further substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^1, C_{1-8}-alkyl, an aryl group and a heterocylic group), in which:-

X^1 represents, on each occasion when used above, halo, cyano, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$ or $-A^1-R^5$, wherein:

A^1 represents a spacer group selected from $-C(Z)A^2-$, $-N(R^6)A^3-$, $-OA^4-$, $-S-$ or $-S(O)_nA^5-$, in which:

A^2 represents a single bond, -O-, -S- or $-N(R^6)A^6-$,

A^3 represents A^6, $-C(Z)N(R^6)C(Z)N(R^6)-$, $-C(Z)N(R^6)C(Z)O-$, $-C(Z)N(R^6)S(O)_nN(R^6)-$, $-C(Z)S-$, $-S(O)_n-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^6)C(Z)N(R^6)-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^6)C(Z)O-$ or $-S(O)_nN(R^6)S(O)_nN(R^6)-$;

A^4 represents A^6 or $-S(O)_n-$;

A^5 represents a single bond, $-N(R^6)-$ or –O-;

A^6 represents a single bond, –C(Z)-, -C(Z)O-, $-C(Z)N(R^6)-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^6)-$ or $-S(O)_nO-$; and

Z represents, on each occasion when used above, a substituent connected by a double bond, which is selected from =O, =S, $=NR^5$, $=NN(R^5)(R^6)$, $=NOR^5$, $=NS(O)_2N(R^5)(R^6)$, =NCN, $=CHNO_2$ and $=C(R^5)(R^6)$;

R^5 and R^6 independently represent, on each occasion when used above,

(a) hydrogen;

(b) C_{1-8}-alkyl, optionally substituted by one or more substituent selected from X^2, Q, C_{1-8}-alkyl (optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^2, C_{1-8}-alkyl, an aryl group, a heterocylic group and Q), an aryl group and a heterocylic group (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^2, C_{1-8}-alkyl, an aryl group and a heterocylic group); or

(c) an aryl group or a heterocylic group, both of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^2, C_{1-8}-alkyl (optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^2, C_{1-8}-alkyl, an aryl group, a heterocylic group and Q), an aryl group and a heterocylic group (which latter two groups are optionally

substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^2, C_{1-8}-alkyl, an aryl group and a heterocylic group); or

R^5 and R^6 may, when present on the same atom or on adjacent atoms, taken together with those atoms form a 5- to 8-membered ring optionally containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 double bonds, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^2, C_{1-8}-alkyl, an aryl group, a heterocylic group (which latter three groups are optionally substituted as described in (b) and (c) above respectively) and, provided that the ring that R^5 and R^6 may together be part of is not aromatic in character, Q;

X^2 represents, on each occasion when used above, halo, cyano, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$ or $-A^7-R^7$, wherein:

A^7 represents a spacer group selected from $-C(Q)A^8-$, $-N(R^8)A^9-$, $-OA^{10}-$, -S- or $-S(O)_nA^{11}-$, in which:

A^8 represents a single bond, -O-, -S- or $-N(R^8)-$;

A^9 represents A^{12}, $-C(Q)N(R^8)C(Q)N(R^8)-$, $-C(Q)N(R^8)C(Q)O-$, $-C(Q)N(R^8)S(O)_nN(R^8)-$, $-C(Q)S-$, $-S(O)_n-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^8)C(Q)N(R^8)-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^8)C(Q)O-$ or $-S(O)_nN(R^8)S(O)_nN(R^8)-$;

A^{10} represents A^{12} or $-S(O)_n-$;

A^{11} represents a single bond, $-N(R^8)-$ or $-O-$;

A^{12} represents a single bond, $-C(Q)-$, $-C(Q)O-$, $-C(Q)N(R^8)-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^8)-$ or $-S(O)_nO-$;

Q represents, on each occasion when used above, a substituent connected by a double bond, which is selected from =O, =S, $=NR^7$, $=NN(R^7)(R^8)$, $=NOR^7$, $=NS(O)_2N(R^7)(R^8)$, =NCN, $=CHNO_2$ and $=C(R^7)(R^8)$;

R^7 and R^8 independently represent, on each occasion when used herein,

(i) hydrogen;

(ii) an aryl group or a heterocylic group, both of which may be substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^3, C_{1-8} alkyl, an aryl group and a heterocylic group (and which latter three groups are themselves optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, hydroxy, $-R^9$, $-OR^9$ and =O); or

(iii) C_{1-8}-alkyl, optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^3 and W; or

R^7 and R^8 may, when present on the same atom or on adjacent atoms, taken together with those atoms form a 5- to 8-membered ring optionally containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 double bonds, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^3, C_{1-8} alkyl, an aryl group, a heterocylic group and, provided that the ring that R^7 and R^8 may together be part of is not aromatic in character, W;

X^3 represents, on each occasion when used above, halo, cyano, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$ or $-A^{13}-R^{10}$, wherein:

A^{13} represents a spacer group selected from $-C(W)A^{14}-$, $-N(R^{11})A^{15}-$, $-OA^{16}-$, -S- or $-S(O)_nA^{17}-$, in which:

A^{14} represents a single bond, -O-, -S- or $-N(R^{11})-$;

A^{15} represents A^{18}, $-C(W)N(R^{11})C(W)N(R^{11})-$, $-C(W)N(R^{11})C(W)O-$, $-C(W)N(R^{11})S(O)_nN(R^{11})-$, $-C(W)S-$, $-S(O)_n-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})C(W)N(R^{11})-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})C(W)O-$ or $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})S(O)_nN(R^{11})-$;

A^{16} represents A^{18} or $-S(O)_n-$;

A^{17} represents a single bond, $-N(R^{11})-$ or –O-;

A^{18} represents a single bond, $-C(W)-$, $-C(W)O-$, $-C(W)N(R^{11})-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{11})-$ or $-S(O)_nO-$;

R^9 represents, on each occasion when used above, C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted by fluoro;

W represents, on each occasion when used above, a substituent connected by a double bond, which is selected from =O, =S, $=NR^{10}$, $=NN(R^{10})(R^{11})$, $=NOR^{10}$, $=NS(O)_2N(R^{10})(R^{11})$, =NCN, $=CHNO_2$, and $=C(R^{10})(R^{11})$;

R^{10} and R^{11} independently represent, on each occasion when used above:

(1) hydrogen;

(2) an aryl group or a heterocylic group, both of which may be substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^4, C_{1-8} alkyl, methylenedioxy, difluoromethylenedioxy and dimethylmethylenedioxy; or

(3) C_{1-8}-alkyl, optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^4, =O, =S, $=NR^{12}$, $=NN(R^{12})(R^{13})$, $=NOR^{12}$, $=NS(O)_2N(R^{12})(R^{13})$, =NCN, $=CHNO_2$ and $=C(R^{12})(R^{13})$; or

R^{10} and R^{11} may, when present on the same atom or on adjacent atoms, taken together with those atoms form a 5- to 8-membered ring optionally containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms and/or 1 to 3 double bonds, which ring is itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from X^4 and, provided that the ring that R^{10} and R^{11} may together be part of is not aromatic in character, =O, =S, $=NR^{12}$, $=NN(R^{12})(R^{13})$, $=NOR^{12}$, $=NS(O)_2N(R^{12})(R^{13})$, =NCN, $=CHNO_2$ and $=C(R^{12})(R^{13})$;

X^4 represents, on each occasion when used above, halo, cyano, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$ or $-A^{19}-R^{12}$, wherein:

A^{19} represents a spacer group selected from $-C(O)A^{20}-$, $-N(R^{13})A^{21}-$, $-OA^{22}-$, -S- or $-S(O)_nA^{23}-$, in which:

A^{20} represents a single bond, -O-, -S- or $-N(R^{13})-$;

A^{21} represents A^{24}, $-C(O)N(R^{13})C(O)N(R^{13})-$, $-C(O)N(R^{13})C(O)O-$, $-C(O)N(R^{13})S(O)_nN(R^{13})-$, -C(O)S-, $-S(O)_n-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{13})C(O)N(R^{13})-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{13})C(O)O-$ or $-S(O)_nN(R^{13})S(O)_nN(R^{13})-$;

A^{22} represents A^{24} or $-S(O)_n-$;

A^{23} represents a single bond, $-N(R^{13})-$ or $-O-$;

A^{24} represents a single bond, $-C(O)-$, $-C(O)O-$, $-C(O)N(R^{13})-$, $-S(O)_nN(R^{13})-$ or $-S(O)_nO-$;

R^{12} and R^{13} independently represent, on each occasion when used above:

(A) hydrogen; or

(B) C_{1-6}-alkyl, optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-N(R^{14})R^{15}$, $-OR^{15}$ and =O;

n represents, on each occasion when used above, 1 or 2;

R^3 and R^4 independently represent H or C_{1-6}-alkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, C_{1-6}-alkyl, cyano, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$, $-N(R^{14})R^{15}$, $-OR^{15}$ and =O; and

R^{14} and R^{15} independently represent, on each occasion when used above, H or C_{1-4} alkyl,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disease in which inhibition of the activity of a lipoxygenase is desired and/or required.

2. A use as claimed in Claim 1, wherein, when A^1 represents $-C(Z)A^2-$, A^2 represents a single bond, -O-, -S- or $-N(R^6)-$.

3. A use as claimed in Claim 1, wherein, when A^1 represents $-N(R^6)A^3$, A^3 represents A^6, $-C(Z)S-$ or $-S(O)_n-$.

4. A use as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein, when R^1 and/or R^2 are substituted by an alkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group, which latter three groups are substituted by one or more alkyl, aryl or heterocylic groups, and which latter three groups are themselves substituted by an alkyl group, then that alkyl group is not cyclic in character.

5. A use as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein, when A^7 represents $-N(R^8)A^9-$, A^9 represents A^{12}, $-C(Q)S-$ or $-S(O)_n-$.

6. A use as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein, when R^7 and/or R^8 represent an optionally substituted aryl group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, and the optional substituent is X^3, then X^3 represents halo, cyano or $-NO_2$.

7. A use as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein, when R^7 and/or R^8 represent a C_{1-8} alkyl group, then that group is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, $-N(R^{16})R^{17}$, $-OR^{17}$ and =O, in which R^{16} and R^{17} independently represent H or C_{1-4} alkyl.

8. A use as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the optional substituents are selected from halo, $-NH_2$, -N(H)Me, -N(H)Et, -N(H)*i*Pr, $-NMe_2$, -N(Me)Et, -N(Me)*i*Pr, $-NEt_2$, -OH, -OMe, -OEt, -O*i*Pr and =O.

9. A use as claimed in Claim 8 or Claim 9, wherein R^7 and R^8 represent optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkyl.

10. A use as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein R^1 and/or R^2 represent an optionally substituted phenyl, naphthyl, pyrrolidinyl,

piperidinyl, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiophenyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyridinyl, indolyl, indolinyl, isoindolinyl, oxindolyl, quinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-isoquinolinyl, quinolizinyl, benzofuranyl, isobenzofuranyl, chromanyl, benzothiophenyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, indazolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinazolinyl, quinoxalinyl, 1,3-benzodioxolyl and/or benzodioxanyl group.

11. A use as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the optional substituents are selected from halo, $-NO_2$, cyano, C_{1-6} alkyl (which alkyl group may be linear, branched, cyclic, part-cyclic and/or optionally substituted with one or more fluoro group), pyrollidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, tetrahydropyranyl, 4-morpholinyl, $-OR^{18}$, $-N(R^{18})R^{19}$, $-C(O)R^{18}$, $-C(O)OR^{18}$ $-C(O)N(R^{18})R^{19}$, $-S(O)_mR^{20}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{18})R^{19}$ and/or $-N(R^{18})S(O)_2R^{20}$, wherein R^{18} and R^{19} independently represent H, phenyl or C_{1-6} alkyl, R^{20} represents C_{1-4} alkyl and m represents 0, 1 or 2.

12. A use as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the substituents are selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo, cyano, hydroxyl, amino, $-NO_2$, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, phenyl, phenoxy, trifluoromethyl, $-N(H)SO_2CH_3$, $-SO_2NH_2$ and $-SO_2N(CH_3)_2$.

13. A use as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein R^1 represents thiophenyl, pyrazolyl, pyridinyl or phenyl, optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from methyl, *t*-butyl, methoxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, trifluoromethyl, phenyl, hydroxyl, amino, $-NO_2$, $-SO_2NH_2$ and $-SO_2N(CH_3)_2$.

14. A use as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein R^2 represents pyridinyl or phenyl, optionally substituted by one or more

substituents selected from methyl, phenoxy, $-N(H)SO_2CH_3$, $-SO_2NH_2$, $-SO_2N(CH_3)_2$, methoxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl and $-NO_2$.

15 A use as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein, when R^1 and/or R^2 represent substituted phenyl groups, at least one of the substituents is located at a 3-position relative to the point of attachment of that group to the rest of the molecule.

16 A use as claimed in Claim 15 wherein R^1 represents the substituted phenyl group.

17. A use as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein R^3 and/or R^4 represent H or methyl.

18. A use as claimed in Claim 17, wherein R^3 and/or R^4 represent H.

19. A compound of formula I as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 17, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as a pharmaceutical, provided that, when R^4 represents H and:

(A) R^3 represents H and:

(I) R^2 represents phenyl, then R^1 does not represent 2-furanyl, 4-pyridinyl, 3-(5-methylisooxazolyl), phenyl, or 3-nitro-, 2-hydroxy-, 2-hydroxy-3-methyl-, 4-(thiophenyl)-, 2-hydroxy-5-methyl- or 4-hydroxyphenyl;

(II) R^2 represents 4-chlorophenyl, then R^1 does not represent 2-furanyl, 4-pyridinyl, phenyl, or 2-hydroxy-5-methyl-, 4-hydroxy-, 2-hydroxy-3-methyl- or 2-hydroxyphenyl;

(III) R^2 represents 4-methylphenyl, then R^1 does not represent 4-pyridinyl, phenyl, or 3-nitro-, 2-hydroxy-5-methyl-, 4-hydroxy-, 2-hydroxy- or 4-(thiophenyl)phenyl; or

(IV) R^2 represents 2-furanyl or 2-benzofuranyl, then R^1 does not represent 4-pyridinyl or 3-(5-methylisooxazolyl); and

(B) R^3 represents methyl and:

(1) R^2 represents phenyl, then R^1 does not represent *N*-(4-bromophenyl)-2-amino-, *N*-(2-methoxyphenyl)-2-amino-, *N*-(2-ethoxyphenyl)-2-amino-, *N*-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-amino-, *N*-(4-methylphenyl)-2-amino-, *N*-(3-methylphenyl)-2-amino-, *N*-(2-methylphenyl)-2-amino- or *N*-(phenyl)-2-aminophenyl; or

(2) R^2 represents 4-chlorophenyl, then R^1 does not represent 4-pyridinyl, phenyl, or 3-nitro-, 2-hydroxy-5-methyl-, 4-hydroxy-, 2-hydroxy- or 2-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl.

20. A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in Claim 19, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

21. A compound as defined in Claim 19, or a pharmaceuticaly-acceptable salt thereof, with the additional provisos that, when R^4 represents H, R^2 represents phenyl and:

(a) R^3 represents H, then R^1 does not represent 2-pyridinyl, or 3-bromo-, 3,4-dimethoxy- or 2-hydroxy-5-bromophenyl; and

(b) R^3 represents methyl, then R^1 does not represent 4-methoxyphenyl.

22. A use as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 18 wherein the lipoxygenase is 15-lipoxygenase.

23. A use as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 18 or 22, wherein the disease is inflammation and/or has an inflammatory component.

24. A use as claimed in Claim 23 wherein the inflammatory disease is asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), pulmonary fibrosis, allergic disorders, rhinitis, inflammatory bowel disease, ulcers, inflammatory pain, fever, atherosclerosis, coronary artery disease, vasculitis, pancreatitis, arthritis, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, conjunctivitis, iritis, scleritis, uveitis, wound healing, dermatitis, eczema, psoriasis, stroke, diabetes, autoimmune diseases, Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, sarcoidosis, Hodgkin's disease or another malignancy.

25. A method of treatment of a disease in which inhibition of the activity of a lipoxygenase is desired and/or required, which method comprises administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 21, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, to a patient suffering from, or susceptible to, such a condition.

26. A combination product comprising:

(A) a compound of formula I, as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 21, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; and

(B) another therapeutic agent that is useful in the treatment of inflammation,

wherein each of components (A) and (B) is formulated in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

27. A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound of formula I as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 21, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, another therapeutic agent that is useful in the treatment of

inflammation, and a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

28. A kit of parts comprising components:

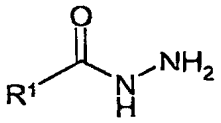
(a) a pharmaceutical formulation including a compound of formula I as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 21, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier; and

(b) a pharmaceutical formulation including another therapeutic agent that is useful in the treatment of inflammation in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier,

which components (a) and (b) are each provided in a form that is suitable for administration in conjunction with the other.

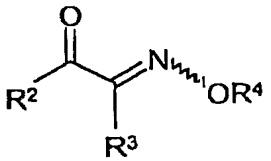
29. A process for the preparation of a compound as defined in Claim 21, which comprises:

(i) reaction of a compound of formula II,



II

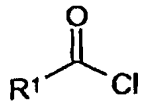
wherein R^1 is as defined in Claim 1, or an acid addition salt thereof, with a compound of formula III,



III

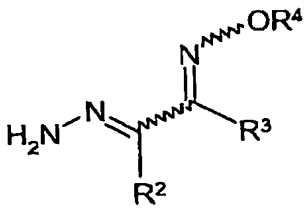
wherein the squiggly bond, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are as defined in Claim 1;

(ii) reaction of a compound of formula IV,



IV

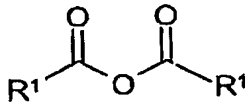
wherein R^1 is as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula V,



V

wherein the squiggly bonds, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are as defined in Claim 1;

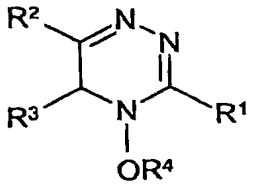
(iii) reaction of a compound of formula VI,



VI

wherein R^1 is as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula V as defined above;

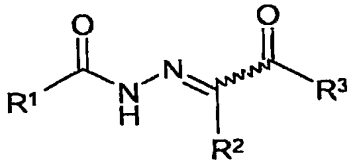
(iv) ring opening of a compound of formula VII,



VII

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are as defined in Claim 1;

(v) reaction of a compound of formula VIII,



VIII

wherein the squiggly bond, R^1, R^2 and R^3 are as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula IX,

$$R^4ONH_2 \qquad IX$$

wherein R^4 is as defined in Claim 1, or an acid addition salt thereof;

(vi) for compounds of formula I in which R^4 represents optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, reaction of a corresponding compound of formula I in which R^4 represents H with a compound of formula X,

$$R^{4a}L^1 \qquad X$$

wherein L^1 is a suitable leaving group and R^{4a} is C_{1-6}-alkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, C_{1-6}-alkyl, cyano, $-NO_2$, $-ONO_2$, $-N(R^{14})R^{15}$, $-OR^{15}$ and =O; or

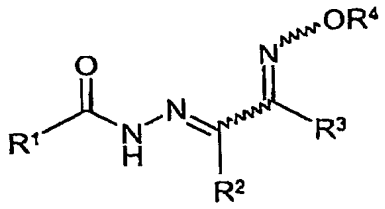
(vii) reaction of a compound of formula XI,

$$R^1L^2 \qquad XI$$

wherein L^2 is a suitable leaving group and R^1 is as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula V as defined above in the presence of carbon monoxide or another suitable CO source.

ABSTRACT

There is provided a use of a compound of formula I,



wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 have meanings given in the description, and pharmaceutically-acceptable salts thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disease in which inhibition of the activity of a lipoxygenase (e.g. 15-lipoxygenase) is desired and/or required, and particularly in the treatment of inflammation.